12 Leaders Say They Kept Independent Judgment

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Twelve former presidents the National Student Associa tion said yesterday that the had retained "the utmost vig Tance and independence of judg ment" while receiving as muc ns \$400,000 a year from the Central Intelligence Agency to operate their international pro gram.

The former presidents noted that the association had consistently opposed official Amer can foreign policy even while it was taking large subsidies from the Federal Governmen The statement issued yester day was signed by every pres-Gent-with one exception-wh aid office in the association tween 1952, when the link with the intelligence agency was first forged, and 1964. The one exception was Richard I. Murphy, now Assistant Pos-master General, who declined to sign. He was president in 1952-53.

Stephen Robbins, president in 1964-65, is in the Army and could not be reached. The two most recent presidents, Philip Sherburne and W. Eugene Groves, have opposed the asso-ciation's relationship with the intelligence agency.

Charges Are Recalled

The two most recent presi dents and other ex-officials of the association have maintaine that the intelligence agency di influence association policy They insist that former pres-dents, some of whom eithe worked for the agency or wer subsidized by it, tried to influ ence elections and occasionall association policy on such issues jas the war in Vietnam.

The former presidents said in their statement that in the carly nineteen-fifties the student association "recognized the vital importance of American student participation in international student affairs which otherwise would have been dominated by the well trained and well informed representalives of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union,"

However, they said, "without substantial funds, N.S.A. inter-

national program would have been immobilized."
"Yet each of us concluded that, without question, we would have chosen immobilization if the only funds available were conditioned on impairment of the independence of any of

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pproved for Release to C.I.A. funds We state any such conditions. We state categorically that they did not. Allegations that we were 'trapped' or 'duped' are arrant nonsense."

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Such charges have been made;

by present association officials. The former presidents said that although they constantly sought other financing, "this relationship was the only realistic and responsible alternative available to us at that time."

Three Policy Areas Cited

In at least three important areas the association maintained an independent foreign policy that often conflicted with official views, the presidents said.

G"N.S.A. consistently sup-ported and sought to strengthen democratic student organizations in those countries where they existed and encouraged their formation where they did not exist."

C"NSA's international policy

carly recognized the crucial imnationalist. portance which movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America would have in

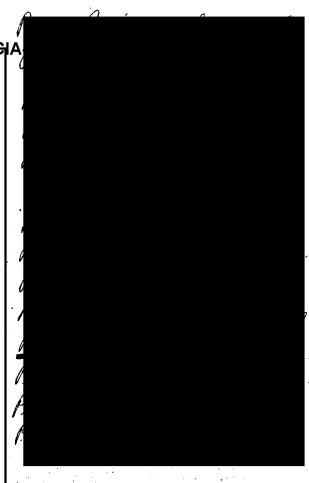
shaping our world."

9"While we were quite aware of the expansionist ambitions and ideological goals of the Sovict Union, N.S.A. chose to deal with the Soviets and Eastern Europeans not as ideological pariahs but as political adversaries in a changing world."

The former officers noted that "political contexts change," and that what might have been a responsible course of action 15 years ago might not seem so to students today. They thus appeared to defend the decision of current leaders to break with

the intelligence agency.
"We have always recognized,"
they said, "the responsibility of each group of current leaders of N.S.A. to lead the organization in the direction which seems to them appropriate during their term of office."

The twelve signers, and the year in which they left office. William T. Dentzer Jr., 1952. James M. Edwards, 1954. Harry H. Lunn Jr., 1955. Stanford L. Glass, 1956. Harald C. Bakken, 1957. K. Ray Farabee, 1958. Robert R. Kiley, 1959. Donald A. Hoffman, 1960. Richard A. Rettig, 1961. Edward R. Garvey, 1962. W. Dennis Shaul, 1963. Gregory M. Gallo, 1964.



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